



November 22, 2011

Members of First Presbyterian Church,

We, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) want to thank the congregation for their prayers since our last update. In the most recent communication, we mentioned that we were in advanced discussions with one particular candidate and that the candidate was in a period of discernment about our senior pastor position. As the candidate and the committee moved deeper into the discernment process the candidate determined that while First Presbyterian Winston-Salem is a very attractive position, the calling to our church is not present.

We are disappointed, but even in our disappointment we are deeply grateful for the clarity of God's direction and for the clear ministry impact of this candidate. While this candidate will not be serving here at 3rd and Cherry, we take comfort in the knowledge that there are people like this, with a powerful set of gifts and skills, who are devoted to applying them to the advancement of the Kingdom. Our God is amazing and surprising. Prior to and in the midst of the decision by our most recent candidate, God brought to our attention new candidates with strong ministry profiles that based on preliminary assessment fit our call extremely well. We have begun active dialogue, and God has lifted us up with new energy. Our work continues and we engage in it with zeal and eager anticipation.

The PNC wants to take this opportunity to thank Harry Daniel for the great work he has done as our interim senior pastor. Candidates who take a deep look at our church recognize the fingerprints of a strong leader and the fine job he has done in shepherding our church through a period of self assessment and vision casting. We wish Harry all the best in his next call and are thankful to God for how He has gifted Harry to minister and lead a congregation in a period of transition. We also want to thank our devoted staff for their willingness to assume more and varied ministry responsibilities during the transition. They will be counted on even more as we move forward, and we are grateful for their passion for the Gospel.

We also thank the Transition Committee that is coordinating the staffing needs between Harry's departure and the calling of our new senior pastor. The Transition Committee has been in close contact with the PNC, as well as the Personnel Committee, the Session and the pastoral staff during this time. We are confident in their discernment and leadership.

Harriet Allen, Bo Brookby, Matt Dixson, Robbin Flow, Gayle Ford, Andrea Greene, Debbie Hunter, Steve Lineberger, and Scott Wray (chr)